

**THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF THE BLACK SEA
FROM HOMER TO THE PRESENT**

ART HISTORY 229.601/CLASSICAL STUDIES 229.601
SPRING 2004

SYLLABUS

Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 pm Jaffe 113

Instructor Peri Johnson

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Office hours by appointment only (Send email message to arrange a meeting. Monday afternoons are preferable.)

Mailbox in front office of Jaffe

Blackboard course website: <http://courseweb.library.upenn.edu>

(information for new users of Blackboard:

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/bb/bbhandout.html>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Throughout the centuries, the Black Sea has been the meeting place where peoples of the Central Asian steppe, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Anatolian Peninsula have mingled and forged new identities. This course considers how concepts of identity construction and environmental history have influenced our understanding of this cultural landscape, drawing on primary literary and archaeological evidence as well as critical studies. Topics include Greek colonization, the encounter of newcomers with indigenous peoples, the role of religion in cultural change, human relationships with the marine environment, and the legacy of nationalist and Soviet scholarship. The course will introduce the cultures of the Greeks (from Homer to the nineteenth century); the Scythians, with their rich artifacts; the Khazar Jews of medieval Crimea; and the Turkmen transhumants of the Anatolian Plateau. Introductory lectures and the discussion of assigned readings will prepare students to carry out directed research projects.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Ascherson, N. 1995. *Black Sea*. New York: Hill and Wang.

The textbook is available at the Penn Book Center located at 130 S 34th ST (34th and Sansom).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1— Attendance.
- 2— Assigned readings completed by the assigned date and participation in discussions.
- 3— Quizzettes (short questions about the assigned readings).
- 4— Two exams consisting of image identifications and essay questions (chosen from several questions distributed in advance).
- 5— All components of the research project (proposal, draft, readings, and 8 page paper).
- 6— The final grade will be determined as follows:
 - Attendance, preparedness, participation, and quizzettes: 30%
 - Research project 30%
 - Exams: 20% each
- 7— All assignments must be turned in or no grade will be given for the entire class.
- 8— Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will automatically result in failure of the class.
- 9— Only a doctor's excuse will be accepted for a missed presentation or examination.

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

For full citations of readings see following bibliography. The readings will be posted on the courseweb page except the textbook readings, and if available, hardcopies will be on reserve in the Fine Arts Library.

Week 1 - Tuesday, January 13th : INTRODUCTION

Week 2 - Tuesday, January 20th : LANDSCAPES OF MEMORY : contemporary landscapes of the past and past constructs of the other

Readings: Alcock 2002; Lissarrague 2002; Ascherson ch. 3 (89-110)

Week 3 - Tuesday, January 27th : ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES & PREHISTORY : the flood and the steppe

Readings: Smith 2003; Ryan & Pitman 1998 ch. 20 (229-237); Hiebert 2000; Ascherson ch. 11 (257-270) (skim Ryan & al. 1997; Ballard, Coleman & Rosenberg 2000)

Suggestions for student projects and project description distributed

Week 4 - Tuesday, February 3rd : HOMERIC COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS & ETHNICITY :

representations of Cimmerians & others in Aegean art, & archaeological evidence for colonization along the Black Sea littoral

Readings: Antonaccio 2003; Ascherson ch. 2 (49-88); Homer passages

Week 5 - Tuesday, February 10th : ART ON THE STEPPE : interpreting 'animal style'

Readings: Rayevsky 2004; Jacobson 1984 (skim (optional) catalogue of Reeder 1999 (only on reserve in the Fine Arts Library))

Week 6 - Tuesday, February 17th : HERODOTUS & THE SCYTHIANS : 'Hellenizing' trends in Black Sea urban culture & its transhumant periphery, & contemporary looting of burial mounds

Readings: Taylor 1994; Jacobson 1995; Ascherson chs. 4 & 5 (111-135); Herodotus passages

Project Proposals due

Week 7 - Tuesday, February 24th : ROMAN MILITARY IMPERIALISM : Romans in Dacia & the trophy at Adamklissi

Readings: Holliday 2002; Kleiner 1992; Ovid passages

Week 8 - Tuesday, March 2nd : **First Exam**

Tuesday, March 9th : **Spring Break** (no class)

Week 9 - Tuesday, March 16th : CONSTANINOPLE : visuality in the art & architecture of the Byzantine capital at the time of Justinian and beyond

Readings: Mathews 1998; Nelson 2000; Photios passages

Presentation readings due

Week 10 - Tuesday, March 23rd : KHAZARIA : the effect of conversion to Judaism on Khazar culture & the cultural legacy of the Khazars

Readings: Golden 1990; Golden 1998; Ibn Fadlan passages

Week 11 - Tuesday, March 30th : MEDIEVAL ARTISANAL CROSSCURRENTS : monuments of Trebizond and Ani

Readings: Helms 1993; Maranci 2003; Ascherson ch. 7 (176-209); Dede Korkut passages

Week 12 - Tuesday, April 6th : STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Readings: to be assigned by students

Paper drafts due

Week 13 - Tuesday, April 13th : STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Readings: to be assigned by students

Week 14 - Tuesday, April 20th : **Second Exam**

Tuesday, May 3rd : **Papers due**

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF READINGS:

Alcock, S.E. 2002. "Archaeologies of memory," in *Archaeologies of the Greek past: landscape, monuments, and memories*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-35.

Antonaccio, C. 2003. "Hybridity and the cultures within Greek culture," in *The cultures within ancient Greek culture: contact, conflict, collaboration*. eds. C. Dougherty and L. Kurke. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 57-74.

Ballard, R.D., D.F. Coleman, and G.D. Rosenberg. 2000. "Further evidence of abrupt Holocene drowning of the Black Sea shelf," *Marine Geology* 170:253-261.

Golden, P.B. 1990. "The peoples of the south Russian steppes," in *The Cambridge history of early inner Asia*. ed. D. Sinor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 256-284. ['The Khazars' 263-270]

----. 1998. "Religion among the Qipčaq of medieval Eurasia," *Central Asiatic Journal* 42:180-237. ['Religious conversions in Eurasia' 226-237]

Helms, M.H. 1993. "Skilled artisans in time and space," in *Craft and the kingly ideal: art, trade, and power*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 28-51.

- Hiebert, F.T. 2000. "Bronze Age central Eurasian cultures in their steppe and desert environments," in *Environmental disaster and the archaeology of human response*. eds. G. Bawden and R.M. Reycraft. Albuquerque: Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, 51-62.
- Holliday, P.J. 2002. "Preface," in *The origins of Roman historical commemoration in the visual arts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, xv-xxv.
- Kleiner, D. 1992. "Provincial art under Trajan: the trophy of Trajan at Adamklissi," in *Roman sculpture*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 230-232.
- Jacobson, E. 1984. "The stag with bird-headed antler tines: a study in image transformation and meaning," *Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities* 56:113-180.
- . 1995. "Problems in the study of Scythian art" in *The art of the Scythians: the interpenetration of cultures at the edge of the Hellenic world*. Leiden: Brill, 4-19.
- Lissarrague, F. 2002. "The Athenian image of the foreigner," in *Greeks and barbarians*. ed. T. Harrison. New York: Routledge, 101-124.
- Maranci, C. 2003. "The architect Trdat: building practices and cross-cultural exchange in Byzantium and Armenia," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 62:294-305.
- Mathews, T.F. 1998. "The imperial city of Constantinople," in *Byzantium: from antiquity to the Renaissance*. New York: Harry N. Adams, 17-39.
- Nelson, R.S. 2000. "To say and to see: ekphrasis and vision in Byzantium," in *Visuality before and beyond the Renaissance: seeing as others saw*. ed. R.S. Nelson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 143-168.
- Rayevsky, D.S. "Animal style," *The Grove dictionary of art online*. (Oxford University Press, accessed 16 January 2004) <<http://www.groveart.com>>
- Reeder, E. 1999. *Scythian gold: treasures from ancient Ukraine*. New York: Harry Abrams.
- Ryan, W.B.F. et al. 1997. "An abrupt drowning of the Black Sea shelf," *Marine Geology* 138:119-126.
- Ryan, W.B.F. and W.C. Pitman III. 1998. "Chapter 20: on a golden pond," in *Noah's flood: the new scientific discoveries about the event that changed history*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 229-237.
- Smith, A.T. 2003. "Organic absolutism" & "A critique of absolute space," in *The political landscape: constellations of authority in early complex polities*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 45-54.
- Taylor, T. 1994. "Thracians, Scythians, and Dacians, 800 BC-AD 300," in *Oxford illustrated prehistory of Europe*. ed. B.W. Cunliffe. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 384-398. ["The Greeks come and see", "Scythian and Thracian society", and "Acculturation and difference".]